
THE MCA ADVISORY

The Newsletter of Medal Collectors of America

Volume 6: Number 3

November 2003

Our Calendar

1. Presidential Coin Auction 12/6/03
2. 1/17/2004 – MCA Club Meeting at the New York International Show
3. 4/3/2004 – COAC to be held at the new location of the American Numismatic Society in downtown New York.
4. 6/1/2004 – Kolbe/Stacks' auction of the John J. Ford, Jr. Library, Part I. Venue will be California.
5. 8/18-8/22/2004 – ANA Convention in Pittsburgh. Our meeting date has not yet been selected.

MCA Online

Thanks to the energy and talent of David Boitnott, Medal Collectors is now online. You may view our home page at (www.medalcollectors.org). David welcomes your suggestions for exploiting this website.

Auction Report From England

Baldwin's Auction (Sale number 35), 15 October 2003. The third and final day of Baldwin's series of Autumn auctions in London was devoted almost entirely to medals. The 626 Lots largely comprised two collections, one of ballooning medals, the other Napoleonic medals. The balance of the sale consisted of British and other medals of the world.

Robert White's collection of ballooning material was started in the late 1960s, when the supply of items and the range of quality was quite different than it is today. As such, it had a good representation of types, and also included medals relating to airships, aeroplanes and space travel. It was well received, with many of the principal pieces selling well, and in some cases very much so. The front cover item, a medal for the first manned flights, showing the ascent of the Montgolfiere and Charliere balloons, went for £440 (high estimate £250). This catalogue of Bob White's collection forms a fine numismatic legacy, and will no doubt be frequently referred to. He will also be remembered, in my mind at least, for having coined the word to describe the collectors of such material – balloonatics.

The collection of Napoleonic medals had a much shorter pedigree, but was no less impressive for its depth and scope, and consisted mostly of bronze rather than silver pieces. Generally speaking, medals from this series were struck in large numbers, as one might well expect of pieces designed to act as tools of propaganda. They are nonetheless an extremely popular area for collectors, as was obvious from the very large number of different buyers absorbing the collection. Many of the lots were made up of four and five medals in each and estimated in the £150-180 range, but these figures were generally exceeded. That having been said, one cannot help thinking that the large and well-designed

68 mm. Bronze medal, by Galle and Brenet, for the Deputation of Mayors of Paris to Napoleon in 1805, and catalogued singly, represents good value at £120 (estimate £60-80).

The auction was completed by a variety of material from different countries. Notable amongst it were French art nouveau and later medals, a small group of Betts pieces, including an early unrecorded type, and a good run of Turkish-related medals. The way that this particular market has been performing of late emphasizes the general scarcity of medals compared to coins, how price sensitive they are, and what happens when there occurs a sudden and concentrated demand. The interest for Turkish material is coming from a small but determined group of collectors, and one can but smile at how a medal seemingly unsold at £240, in a London auction a year ago, was to realize £2800 this time around.

But as Bob White would no doubt agree, whoever said that there was any kind of logic to the behavior of markets and the passion driving collectors and collecting. Balloonatics the lot of us – myself included. (Chris Eimer)

COAC Presentations - 2004

Thus far, nine members have volunteered to make a presentation at COAC 2004. This is a “full boat” but, lest one or more contemplated presenters does not make it to the starting line, ye editor is keeping the polls open. Let me hear from you. (jadams@ahh.com)

	<u>Subject</u>
David Alexander	
Anne Bentley/John Adams	Comitia Americana Survey
Eric Goldstein	Exonumia of the British Military, 1720-1760
Robert Hoge	Betts Medals in the ANS Collection
Dick Johnson	
John Kraljevic	
Richard Margolis	Franklin Portraits
Vicken Yegporian	Kings College Medal of 1760
David Menchell	Medals that should have been in Betts

Quality at a Bargain Price

Thanks to Bob Fritsch for pointing out the remaindering of Stephen Scher's outstanding book “THE CURRENCY OF FAME: Portrait Medals of the Renaissance.” Published at \$95.00, copies can now be had at \$19.95 from Edward R. Hamilton, Falls Village, CT 06031-5000.

Marietta Medals

Earl Monroe has given us an excellent piece on the Marietta Centennial. By way of introduction, LaSalle crossed Ohio in 1669 but, for most of the next century, the French concentrated their interests in the Saint Lawrence River Valley and, to a lesser extent the Mississippi River Valley. The French built a fort at Niagara but it wasn't until Céleron's expedition in 1748 that claim was laid to the Ohio. Virginia had designs on the same territory, represented by the Ohio Company that employed the services of George Washington as a surveyor. Clashes between the Virginians and the French sparked the commencement of the French and Indian War that lasted until the capture of Montreal in 1760.

The Continental Congress created the Northwest Territory in 1787. Although settlers had pushed their way into the area

long before, many towns in Ohio date their settlement to 1788. The commemoration of official settlement is the subject of the medals described below:

OHIO SETTLEMENT CENTENNIAL, 1888 by Earl Monroe

The Ohio Centennial was celebrated at Marietta, April 7th and 8th, 1888; At Cincinnati, July 4th to October 3rd, 1888; and at Columbus, September 4th to October 19th, 1888.

The Ohio Settlement Centennial was held at both Gallipolis and at Marietta in 1888. The Marietta Celebration occurred July 15 through 19, 1888. These Centennial celebrations were sponsored in part by the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society. The first permanent settlement was at Fort Harmar (Marietta).

The State of Ohio Legislature passed various acts authorizing the Centennial Celebration of the settlement of the Northwest Territory including Joint Resolution No. 13, adopted March 31, 1886; Joint Resolution No. 39, adopted February 8, 1887; Joint Resolution No. 21, February 9, 1888; and Senate Joint Resolution No. 28, March 2, 1888; and House Joint Resolution No. 25, April 14, 1888. These resolutions authorized the governor to appoint a seven-member commission to cooperate with the "Committee of one hundred" which organized the event and authorized \$12,500 for the celebration.

President Grover Cleveland approved an Executive Order on July 12, 1888 authorizing national exhibits from the Smithsonian and Federal Agencies to be shown at the Centennial at Marietta. The U.S. Congress authorized such participation with Public Resolution No. 26, July 26, 1888 which allowed participation at both the Marietta and Cincinnati events. (See House Report No. 1958 which accompanied HR

9711 a bill appropriating the funding for this event, April 25, 1888. This report provided interesting comparisons with the costs of previous events including the Pennsylvania Centennial 1882, the New Orleans Exposition, Louisville, and Minneapolis in 1887)

Of special interest was an exhibit of 78 United States Medals provided by the Smithsonian at Marietta from July 16-21.

The celebration at Cincinnati in 1888 was far larger than the one at Marietta and Richard Dusterberg covers the history of the Cincinnati event quite well in his monograph Cincinnati Mother of Expositions, August, 1980 (TAMS Vol. 20, Number 4, Part II). Hibler and Kappen also provide a thumbnail sketch of the event in So Called Dollars, 1963, p. 19. [HK 146 & 147].

The Marietta Celebration however is not well covered in the numismatic literature and several important state anniversary medals were created for this event.

Several medals and badges are described in the Report of the Commissioners of the National Centennial Celebration on page 273. These badges and medals were placed in a copper box (time capsule) which was intended to be opened in 1988. These items were described as follows:

"Badges of the Centennial Committees; Women's Centennial Association; Committee of One Hundred; St. Clair Badge, also medals; General Grant Medal; St. Clair Medal, with campus Martius on obverse side; the St. Clair and Foraker Medal, with old stockade on obverse side; Cleveland Western Tour Medal, with President

Cleveland and wife on one side with inscription on obverse."

St. Clair hanging badge, 1888

The Marietta medals were apparently struck by James Murdock, Jr. the die sinker responsible for so many of the Cincinnati exposition medals. The St. Clair hanging badge is illustrated and is similar to the one depicted on page 27 of Dusterburg's monograph except that the brass ribbon at the top reads MARIETTA instead of CINCINNATI. The following medal appears to be struck in white metal used for so many of the Cincinnati pieces.

Obv. Bust of Arthur St. Clair facing right. Words underneath bust INAUGURATED JULY 15' 1788. Words around top, ARTHUR ST. CLAIR. Around bottom FIRST TERRITORIAL GOVERNOR. [Arthur St. Clair served under George Washington in the revolutionary war and was appointed Governor of the Northwest Territory as a favor by the Continental Congress, assuming that he could recoup his fortune that the revolutionary war had cost him. Unfortunately for him this was not to be and he died a poor man.]

Rev. Birds eye view of Campus Martius depicted. Words around top CENTENNIAL OF MARIETTA, OHIO. Words in exergue CAMPUS MARTIUS / BUILT BY / OHIO COMPANY / 1788 - 1888.

St. Clair hanging badge, 1888 (James Murdock, Jr.) OH-1888-1

Var.	Size	Metal	Fineness	Weight
A	38mm	Silver?	19g	

St. Clair - Foraker hanging badge, 1888

Apparently this medal was also designed and struck by James Murdock, Jr.

It is suspended from a brass pin hanger that shows an eagle with wings spread over crossed cannon and cannon balls.

Obv. Conjoined busts of General Arthur St. Clair, First Governor of the Northwest Territory and J. B. Foraker facing left. The dates 1788 - 1888 at the top.

Rev. Birds eye view depiction of the Old Stockade center. Words THE OLD / STOCKADE / MARIETTA O. / 1788 - 1888.

St. Clair - Foraker hanging badge, 1888 (James Murdock, Jr.) OH-1888-2

Var.	Size	Metal	Fineness	Weight
A	35mm	White metal	10.38	10.38g

A third medal also apparently exists from this event although not seen by the author. The American Journal of Numismatics reported in 1889 that the following medal was issued.

Ohio Settlement Centennial Putnam hanging badge, 1888

Obv. Bust of Gen. Rufus Putnam of the Ohio Company.

Rev. Fort Campus Martius

Ohio Settlement Centennial Putnam hanging badge, 1888 (James Murdock, Jr.) OH-1888-3

Var.	Size	Metal	Fineness	Weight
A	mm			

References:

Ohio Centennial Celebration, Randall, E. O. Editor, Ohio State Archeological And Historical Society, 1903.
Cincinnati Mother of Expositions, by Richard Dusterberg, August, 1980 (TAMS Vol. 20, Number 4, Part II).

So Called Dollars, 1963, p. 19. [HK 146 & 147] by Hibler and Kappen.

The Ordinance of 1787 and Old Northwest Territory, Federal Writers Project for the Northwest Territory Celebration Commission, Marietta, Ohio 1937.

American Journal of Numismatics, Vol. 23 Number II, p. 81, 1889.

Report of the Commissioners of the national centennial celebration of the early settlement of the territory northwest of the river Ohio, and of the establishment of civil government therein, held at Marietta, Ohio, July 15-19 inclusive, 1888. Including verbatim reports and speeches and transactions of the occasion. By Commissioners of the Old Northwest centennial celebration, 1888. Columbus, O., The Westbote company, state printers, 1889.

"List of Relics Exhibited at Centennial Celebration of the Establishment of Civil Government, at Marietta, Ohio, July 15-19, 1889." 24 pp.

Report of the United States National Museum under the Direction of the Smithsonian Institution, 1889 pp. 182-183 (Itemized list of the United States medals exhibited at Marietta in 1888.)

Indian Peace Medals

From time to time, one finds nuggets of information in a non-numismatic publication. In the Spring 2003 issue of the *Journal of Northwest Anthropology* there is a mother lode. Professor Roderick Sprague and Ms. Cheryl Gunselman have written a brilliant article on Jefferson peace medals and Seasons medals taken on the expedition of Lewis and Clark.

Consistent with the venue, the article focuses on one particular excavation together with the legality and morality of such excavations in the modern context. Along the way the authors provide an insightful discussion of the construction of

genuine Jefferson peace medals together with a modern census of known specimens.

Particularly useful is a "count" of the medals issued on the Lewis and Clark expedition. This count is cross-calibrated with several original sources so as to provide an amazingly specific answer to the questions "what was given out?" and "how many?" Weaved into the article is a veritable cornucopia of citations regarding these medals, ranging from the point of issue to modern times.

One senses that the authors have not actually handled a representative number of these medals. However, they have laid the groundwork for someone else to complete this aspect of the research, with the thesis that the medals procured by Lewis and Clark differ in details of manufacture from peace medals made at other times during the Jefferson administration.

By all means, contact the *Journal of Northwest Anthropology* and order Vol. 37, no.1 (ISSN 1538-2834). (John W. Adams)

Medals in the Upcoming Auction Season

As we prepare for publication of this MCA Advisory, a number of auctions are approaching that should be of interest to MCA members. In the efforts of full disclosure, I work for an auction firm (American Numismatic Rarities of Wolfeboro, NH) and catalogue medals along with other numismatic objects. For the "major" auction firms, medals tend to be a sideline, a way to exhibit a sense of scholarship and add variety to sales without necessarily adding as much to the bottom line as items like certified rare date gold coins or the like. In spite of this, many of the "majors" do excellent work on medals:

Every January since 1998, Stack's has produced an "Americana" sale,

featuring medals among other scholarly specialties like colonial coins, paper money, and tokens. This upcoming Americana sale will include parts of the massive John Ford collection, whose first section hit the auction block in October. The only medals in the October sale were engraved Confederate souvenir items, offered in the lots that followed the extremely rare Confederate half dollar, but more medals promise to be offered in upcoming sales. The Americana sale is not slated to include Ford medallic material (though his Philippine collection will be consigned to the sale), but other medal lots are certain to be included.

The firm for which I work will offer medals for the first time in its young history in January at a sale to be held before the FUN convention in Florida. Interesting items include a wax impression of the 1814 George III Indian Peace medal, a collection of medals relating to shipwrecks including the rare Betts-93 and U.S. Mint *S.S. Central America* medal, a group of Washington Manley medals (Baker 61 in copper, white metal and silver and Baker 62 in copper), a newly discovered George II Peace medal found by a metal detectorist in Western Massachusetts, and a selection of 19th century French medals.

The largest selection of medals (and the only one actually catalogued as of press time) is certain to be that included in Presidential Coin and Antique Company's sale of the Charles Littman Collection of Hard Times Tokens. Joe Levine regularly brings a superb selection of medals and tokens to the marketplace, all expertly and lovingly described. Two impressive Washington pieces are included, an original AE Washington Before Boston medal and a silvered example of the rare Declaration of Independence medal (Baker 53G). The usual (unusual for anyone but Presidential!) assortment of interesting military, Presidential, exposition, and art medals is present, but two substantial and important

specialized collections are also included: Dick Johnson's collection of galvanos, medals, and patterns for medallic art and Fred Reed's collection of the medals of James Earle Fraser and Laura Gardin Fraser. Reed's collection shows the wide range of talent displayed by this First Couple of American medals, while Johnson's collection is a technically fascinating assemblage which includes some extraordinary portraiture and one-of-a-kind items. Slated to go under the hammer on December 6, 2003 at the Baltimore Coin and Currency Convention, the catalogue also includes one of the finest collections of Hard Times Tokens ever assembled. (John Kraljevich)

Mail Gone Astray

Some members did not receive the October issue of the MCA Advisory. You may view this issue on our website (www.medalcollectors.org) or you may order up a copy from ye editor: John W. Adams, 60 State Street, 12th floor, Boston, MA 02109 or jadams@ahh.com.